pared. The Bureau has developed two model mini-watersheds in collaboration with state development agencies.

A Post-Graduate course on Land Resource Management has been started at Punjabrao Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola in partnership with the Bureau.

National Dairy Development Board

1369. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item in the Economic Times dated 8th February, 1993 under the caption N.D.D.B. manipulates MIO to subsidise Dhara;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the various observations of serious nature made therein; and

(c) the details of action taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The observations made do not reflect the factual position.

(c) Government are examining the accounts of National Dairy Development Board to assess the Government liabilities for reimbursement of losses under HTO. Government are also considering ways and means to certain losses in future.

Exploitation of Farmers in Madhya Pradesh

1370. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that farmers in the State of Madhya Pradesh are not getting their due price of Soyabean, Tendu leaves, paddy and other foodgrains while the traders are exploiting these form produces;

(b) if so what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to protect the interest of the farmers in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) The Government announces each season minimum support prices of major agricultural commodities to protect the interests of the farmers. The minimum support prices fixed by the Government are applicable for the entire country including Madhya Pradesh. The Government has fixed minimum support prices of Kharif and Rabi crops of 1992-93 at substantially higher levels as compared to the previous year. The hike in the per quintal minimum support price of Paddy is Rs. 40, Millets Rs. 35, Pulses Rs. 95 Groundnut-in-shell Rs. 105 Sunflower seed Rs. 130 Soyabean Rs. 80 and Raw Cotton Rs. 110. Similarly, for Rabi crops the per quintal hike in the minimum support price of Wheat is Rs. 55, Barley Rs. 50 Gram Rs. 100; Rapeseed/Mustard Rs. 90 and Sunflower and floria Rs. 80 each.

2 As per reports received the prices of foodgrains and soyabean are ruling above the minimum support price levels in Madhya Pradesh.

3. The present agricultural price policy does not cover Tendu leaves since commodities having all-India importance are covered under the policy. However, under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) State Governments can approach the Central Government for undertaking purchase operations on agreed terms and conditions in respect of commodities not covered under the agricultural price policy.

1371. [*Transferred to the 19th March, 1993*].

International Exhibition on Agriculture in Israel

1372. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRI-